ment. The Chief Minister came and met me yesterday and discussed about this point. We assured him that we will give sufficient supply to the Sikkim Government.

SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: I want an assurance from the Minister if the maximum quota will be given during the dry season when the road will be opened.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the quota be given during the dry season?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, it is the State Government which has to lift the allotted quota. They have not lifted it. That is the problem.

SHRI JERLIE E. TARING: In case the State Government does not lift the quota, I would like to know whether the Central Government would like to have any other agency so that the cement reaches to the consumers of Sikkim.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: No, Sir. We have allotted it to the Government. The Government must lift it, not the private parties.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: The allocation is about 52,224 metric tonnes. It is supplied from the factories located in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Penden Cement factry in Bhutan. Since quantity is very small, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all the supplies will be given from West Bengal so that this State which is very backward, at least can get some solace by way of less freight charges.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We have not received any complaint or anything like that from the State Government. If a complaint like that comes to use, we will definitely consider it.

Compensation to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims

*285. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:†
SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any substantial progress has been made in the settlement of claims of Bhopal Gas victims with the Union Carbide;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any offer has been received frm the Union Carbide for an out-of-court settlement in the matter and if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a high power team of officials of Central Government and Madhya Pradesh Government recently visited United States in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what is the outcome of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is making all possible efforts to get fair and reasonable compensation for the Bhopal victims and the case filed in this regard in the court of District Judge, Bhopal is being followed up vigorously.

(c) and (d) Government had rejected and offter of settlement made by the Union Carbide when the matter was before a US Court. No further offer for negotiations has been received thereafter. Therefore, there was no question of deputing any delegation to USA in this regard. The

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. C Lakshmanna.

delegation led by the Attorney General was deputed to USA, essentially for finalising, in consultation with our US attorneys representing Indian Government, the briefs to be filed in support of the stand taken by the Government before the Appellate Court in USA in regard to appeals/cros appeals filed against the decisions of the US District court on the motion of forum non-conveniens."

(e) Does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is your first Supplementary, Mr. Lakshmanna. I am going to allow a special mention on this and a number of Members will ask on this matter. Therefore, you put your question sharp now.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: The answer by the Minister is inadvisedly very vague. It is almost two years now since this tragedy had taken place. In the first instance he says that it is being followed vigorously. What does he mean by "following vigorously"? What are the various steps that have been taken which could be termed as 'vigorous'?

Secondly, he tried to avoid my question that the Attorney General and others did not go for this purpose. Even if that is to be true, I would like to ask the Minister as to what are those specific decisions that have been taken in respect of this case in the U.S. District Court? What will be the stand taken by the Government in view of the decision of the court?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, as you are aware the case was first in the U.S. District courts in New York for a number of months, in fact, for more than a year. As soon as non-conveniens judgement was given on the 5th September, 1986 we filed a plaint against the Union Carbide Corporation for recovery of damages on behalf of all the Bhopal victims against the gas leakage. Summons were reissued on the 6th October, 1986 and various interlocutory aplications were filed by the Government on behalf of the victims. One is in respect of passing non-destruct order. Accordingly an ad-interim non-destruct order was issued. The court reissued the summons. On the 30th October, 1986, the Union of India filed again interlocutory applications requesting the court to restrain Union Carbide Corporation and its subsidiary from selling and removing its corpus of fixed assets.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have explained the delay. Please see the next point. Now, second supplementary.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, I would like to ask the Minister, whether there has been in the recent months a change in the very attitude of the Union Carbide Corporation? Is it a fact that the Union Carbide Corporation is now accusing the Central Government and the Madhya Pradesh Government for the fiasco? If that is the case, how do you propose to meet this problem?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, they have come out in their proposed writen statement with some such allegations and the matter is before the court. So the matter is sub-judice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of courts, you will meet them.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, so far as this tragedy is concerned, the Union Carbide Corporation has rejected the claims of the Government of India. They have described the claims of the victims and the Government of India as groundless and greedly in their written statement. They have put all the blame on the Government of India and the Madhya Pradesh Government saying that they have not taken safety measures. Sir, I would like to know from the Minister what steps the Government would be taking ag-

ainst Union Carbide Corporation from disposing and selling the assets and property of the Union Carbide Corporation in India? Sir, in fact their property should be confiscated. I would also like to know how he will realise the claims of the victims from the Union Carbide Corporation?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, on the 17th of this months the District Judge Court in Bhopal has already issued an ad-interim injunction against the Union Carbide Corporation against their selling or attempted selling of any of their assets. Sir, the final hearing on this is coming on the 26th November, 1986.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Mr Chairman, Sir, the question is one of these victims geting compensation ultimately. So I want to ask the hon. Minister as to what is the extent of assets which the Union Carbide Corporation have transferred since the institution of the suit before the District Court in New York?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: I could not follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is how much assets this multi-national company has transferred before the institution of the suit in New York?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Not before but after the institution of the suit in New York.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He would not be able to reply.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: I do not have the exact answer. However, I can add so far as their assets are concerned we are monitoring them. As I have said on a number of occasions on the floor of this House and in the other House that there is a monitoring mechanism which is being done by the Gvorenment of India. We know that the assets with the Union Carbide Corporation will have to be sufficient for the claims that the Government has made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Judicial Reforms Commission

*286. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) when did Government appoint Judicial Reforms Commission and what were its terms of reference and who were its members;

(b) whether the Commission, has since submitted its report to Government, if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(c) what was the expenditure incurred in this regard; and

(d) whether the report has been published and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) The Government have entrusted the system of administration of jus- Law Commission in view of the urgency of the matter.

A statement containing the terms of reference to Law Commission is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(b) and (d) The Law Commission has submitted two Reports one on Gram Nyayalaya and the other on Tax Courts. Steps are being taken to have the requisite copies printed and lay copies of these reports in Parliament.

(c) No separate expenditure in this regard is incurred since it is included in the expenditure of the Law Commission.